

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Previously Presented): An image recording method comprising the steps of:
 - a) attaching recording paper to an outer peripheral surface of a recording drum;
 - b) attaching an image receiving sheet having an image receiving layer and a substrate, onto a surface of the recording paper to adhere the image receiving layer on a surface of at least a whole of recording region of the recording paper;
 - c) separating the substrate such that only the image receiving layer is transferred onto the recording paper;
 - d) winding a toner sheet, provided as a cut sheet form, onto a surface of the image receiving layer; and
 - e) transferring toner on the toner sheet onto the image receiving layer to record an image thereon in accordance with recording data,wherein all the steps a) through e) are performed on the recording drum.
2. (Previously Presented): The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a cushion layer is formed between the surface of the recording paper and the image receiving layer and in physical contact with the surface of the recording paper.
3. (Cancelled).
4. (Currently Amended): The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the image receiving sheet includes a cushion layer therebeneath, and the image receiving layer is

transferred such that the cushion layer is placed between the surface of the recording paper and the receiving layer and in physical contact with the surface of the recording ~~[[layer]]~~ paper.

5. (Previously Presented): The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein a protective layer is formed on an image recorded surface on the recording papers.

6. (Withdrawn): The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the toner sheet includes a light-heat conversion layer, and

wherein the toner is thermally transferred by irradiating laser beam onto the light-heat conversion layer.

7. (Withdrawn): The image recording method as set forth in claim 6 further comprising the steps of:

measuring a thickness of the recording paper by thickness detecting means; and
adjusting a focal point of the laser beam in accordance with the measured thickness provided by the thickness detecting means.

8. (Withdrawn): The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, wherein a non-contact type displacement meter is used as the thickness detecting means.

9. (Withdrawn): The image recording method as set forth in claim 6, wherein a laser displacement meter is used as the thickness detecting means.

10. (Withdrawn): The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, where measured thickness values provided by the thickness detecting means are prestored in a memory means for an entire scanning area of the toner sheet where the toner is to be transferred by the laser beam, and the focal point of the laser beam is subsequently adjusted in accordance with the stored thickness values.

11. (Withdrawn): The image recording method as set forth in claim 7, wherein the thickness of the recording paper is measured at an opposite side of the rotating drum relative to where the laser beam is located with respect to the recording drum, and the focal position of the laser beam is adjusted in real time.

12 (Previously Presented): An image recording method for recording an image as set forth in any one of claims 1-2 and 4-11, wherein the steps of attaching recording paper, attaching an image receiving sheet, winding a toner sheet, and transferring toner are performed in a single apparatus.

13. (Withdrawn): An image recording apparatus comprising:
a recording drum;
a laser beam located on a first side of the recording drum and operable to direct light towards the recording drum; and
a recording medium thickness determining means located on a second side of the recording drum which is opposite to said first side where said laser beam is located, wherein the laser beam is focused depending on an output of the recording medium thickness determining means.

14. (Withdrawn): An image recording apparatus comprising:
a recording drum;
a laser beam operable to direct light towards the recording drum;
a thickness detecting means operable to determine a thickness profile of a recording material disposed on the recording drum;

a memory for storing said thickness profile provided by said thickness detecting means, said thickness profile including data for a two-dimensional region of scanning for said laser beam; and

a focusing means for adjusting a focal length of said laser according to the thickness profile stored in said memory.

15. (Withdrawn): The image recording apparatus of claim 14, wherein said thickness profile includes data for an entire area of the recording material disposed on said recording drum.

16. (Withdrawn): The image recording apparatus of claim 14, wherein the thickness detecting means is located on an opposite side of said recording drum from said laser beam.

17. (Previously Presented): An image recording method as set forth in claim 2, wherein the cushion layer is in physical contact with an entire surface of the recording paper on at least one side.

18. (Cancelled).

19. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the image receiving layer is provided in a form of a cut sheet.

20. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the recording paper is attached to the recording drum by suction.

21. (Previously Presented): The method of claim 19, wherein each of said recording paper, image receiving layer and toner sheet are disposed one atop another along an outer circumferential surface of the recording drum, over at least half of the circumference of the recording drum.

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22. (Previously Presented): The image recording method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the steps (d) and e) are repeated without providing any additional image receiving sheet, so that a color image is recorded on the image receiving sheet provided in the step b).